

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 34 were presented for examination in the present application. This amendment cancels claims 22. Accordingly, claims 1 – 21 and 23 – 34 remain pending upon entry of this Amendment. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 – 21 and 23 – 34 are patentable over the cited art.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 22 – 24 recite patentable subject matter and that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By the present Amendment, independent claim 21 has been rewritten to include the features of allowable claim 22. Dependent claims 23 has also been rewritten to correct matters of form and antecedent basis issues without adding new matter or changing the scope thereof. Since independent claim 21 is believed to be in condition for allowance and claims 23 – 34 depend therefrom, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 23 – 34 are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21 and 23 – 34.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, namely the feature in claim 12 that provides that the casing is selectively removable from the housing. By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended the specification and the drawings in view of the Examiner's comments. Fig. 1A has been added to illustrate every feature of the disclosure specified in the claims and namely, the feature that casing 45 is removable to allow easy access to the one or more ion emitters 25 for cleaning and/or replacement thereof. The text of the specification on page 7, lines 9 – 21, is consistent with Fig. 1A, as amended. Accordingly, the present amendment of Fig. 1A does not add new matter. Applicants respectfully submit that the drawings now even more fully satisfy the requirement of 37 CFR 1.83(a). Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The drawings are amended to add Fig. 1A, included herewith.

Claims 1 – 9, 11, 20, 21 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,393,718 to Harris et al. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that claims 1 – 9, 11, 20, 21 and 26 are not disclosed or suggested by Harris.

For the reasons discussed above, independent claim 21 has been rewritten to include the features of allowable dependent claim 22. Thus, independent claim 21 and claim 26 that depends therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 1 recites a device having, among other features, a plurality of ion emitters for emitting ions of positive polarity and ions of negative polarity, which are situated adjacent, but outside the housing of the device.

In contrast, Harris provides only one ion channel (23) having a corona discharge wire or pin (24) mounted therein. A continuous supply of ions is generated between the corona discharge wire or pin (24) at the end of the ion channel (23) and the grounded metal or metallized grid (11a) at the air outlet (11). Thus, Harris clearly fails to disclose or suggest a device having a plurality of ion emitters situated adjacent, but outside the housing of the device, as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, as well as claims 2 – 20 that depend therefrom, are patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 – 20 are respectfully requested.

Claims 12 – 19 and 27 – 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris.

Since independent claims 1 and 21 are believed to be in condition for allowance and claims 12 – 19 and 27 – 34 depend therefrom, claims 12 – 19 and 27 – 34 are also

believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12 – 19 and 27 – 34.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,039,774 to Kata et al.

Since independent claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance and claim 12 depends therefrom, claim 12 is also believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 1 recites a device having, among other features, a plurality of ion emitters for emitting ions of positive polarity and ions of negative polarity, which are situated adjacent, but outside the housing of the device. In contrast, Harris provides for only one ion channel (23) and the hair dryer disclosed in Kata et al. does not contain any ion emitters. Therefore, both Harris and Kata et al. fail to disclose or suggest a device having a plurality of ion emitters. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 12.

Claims 10 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,640,049 to Lee et al.

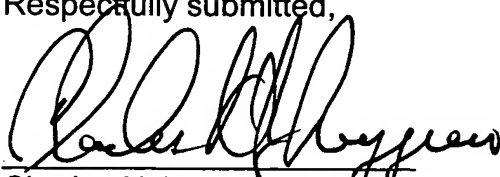
Claims 10 and 25 depend from claims 1 and 21, respectively. Claim 1 recites, among other features, a plurality of ion emitters for emitting ions, which are situated adjacent, but outside the housing of the device. Both Harris and Lee et al. fail to disclose or suggest a device having a plurality of ion emitters, which are situated adjacent, but outside the housing of the device. Claim 21 has been rewritten to include the features of allowable dependent claim 22. Thus, independent claim 21 and claim 25 that depends therefrom are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10 and 25.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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